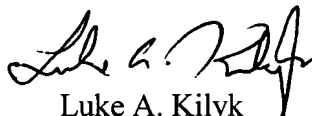


REMARKS

No questions of new matter are raised by the above amendment. Entry of the above amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to deposit Account No. 50-0925. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

7. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said core is a rigid thermoplastic material.

8. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said core comprises at least one thermoplastic material and at least one plasticizer.

9. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said at least one plasticizer is present with the thermoplastic material in an amount of less than about 20% by weight of said core.

10. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said at least one thermoplastic material is polyvinyl chloride.

11. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said at least one thermoplastic material is a rigid polyvinyl chloride.

12. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said core has a thickness of from about 5 mm to about 20 mm, a width of from about 2 cm to about 30 cm, and a length of from about 30 cm to about 130 cm.

13. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said core has at least one cavity.

14. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said core has a series of paralleled cavities which are separated by said thermoplastic material.

17. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said core has at least one groove located on a side of said core.

20. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein two sides of said core are tapered or have beveled edges, wherein said sides are opposite to each other.

21. (Amended) The plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said bottom surface of said core has at least two bottom feet or a series of co-extruded polymeric strips to raise said core from a sub-floor or substrate surface.

37. (Amended) The thermoplastic [laminate] plank of claim [1] 31, wherein said thermoplastic material comprises at least one thermoplastic resin, at least one processing aid, at least one impact modifier, at least one lubricant, and at least one stabilizer.

39. (Amended) [A] The thermoplastic [flooring] plank of claim 31, [comprising at least one thermoplastic material,] said plank having a substantially planar top surface, opposing sides, opposing ends, and a bottom surface, wherein said bottom surface has a plurality of channels formed therein, each of said channels extending longitudinally from one end of the plank to the other end of the plank.

43. (Amended) [A] The thermoplastic [flooring] plank of claim 31, [comprising at least one thermoplastic material,] said plank having substantially planar top and bottom surfaces, opposing ends, and a series of elongate cavities between said top and bottom surfaces, each of said cavities extending from one of said opposing ends of said plank to another of said opposing ends of said plank.